



## *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, December 6, 2017*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

On Wednesday mornings I enjoy playing tennis at the indoor courts in Dover with a team of women who are a joy to be with but are much better players than I am. We have two courts and at the end of each set, the losing doubles team on each court moves to the other court. Needless to say, I am always on the moving team. (God bless the partners I have the honor of playing with who are incredibly gracious and kind about my lack of skills.)

As I was moving to the “opposite court” a few weeks ago one of the players pointed out a tennis ball which had gotten stuck in the lighting fixture over the spot she was serving from. Her comment to me was, “I found the light when I was serving.”

While I recognize she was talking about her tennis game, I was also reminded how true that is when we serve God. Matthew 5:16 tells us that, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” When we serve the Lord, our light shines for all to see. When we give of

ourselves in selfless acts of sacrifice – whether it be our time, our resources, or another way – not only do we see the light but others find it in us. In that way we bring glory to God by performing good deeds for others.

By serving the Lord, we all find the light.

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 style with a large, stylized "H".

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



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

## Purple or Blue?

When I go to various churches during the season of Advent I always ask the pastors: do you wear purple or blue stoles? In recent years we have seen the color blue more and more in addition to the traditional purple. According to [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org) “the Christian year has two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there an ordinary time of growth symbolized in the color green.” It goes on to say that the color purple represents both royalty and penitence and blue symbolizes hope. Purple and blue both acceptable colors to use during Advent. (“*Why are there different colored altar cloths?*”)

Upon further examination, I found that the shade of blue for Advent is often a deep, dark blue. It is like the color of the predawn sky just before the sun rises. It brings with it the meaning of expectation and anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. Other sources remind us that the color blue is associated with the Virgin Mary. She is depicted in the color blue in much of the icons and religious art of the past. ([www.stpaulsivy.org](http://www.stpaulsivy.org) “*Why Blue for Advent*”)

The season of Advent is all of this and much more. We prepare for Christmas with times of self-reflection and repentance but we anticipate the celebration with much preparation like we do when a special visitor comes to our home. We revere the newborn Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Our humble Savior came to serve and give his life for our sins so that we might know the promise of life everlasting in heaven. With the dawn of his coming, all of creation will be filled with his glory.

May you have a purple-blue Advent and teach well the meaning of the season to those who may only be with you at your churches during this time of the year. The most important color to wear is love, which is the fulfillment of Christ's mission for the world.



*Peggy A. Johnson*



# 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](http://www.DelawareScene.com).



**302-398-9394**

[www.milfordcommunityband.org](http://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.

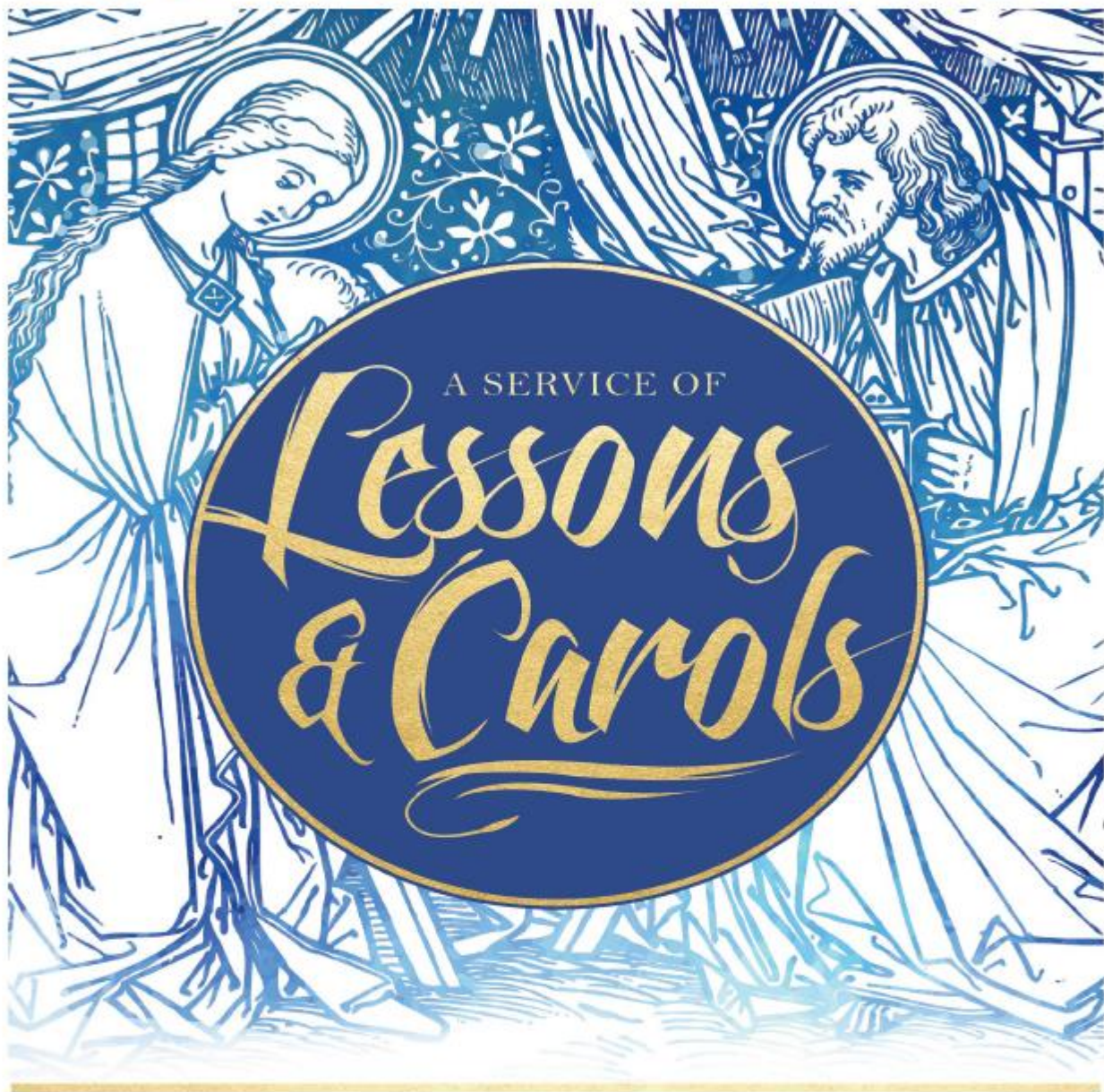
Please, call us with the number of guests that will be attending in your party.

*Buon Natale!!!*





# AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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**FEATURING THE FESTIVAL CHOIR AND STRINGS**  
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH AT 10:30AM**

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**20 N. CHURCH STREET | CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED**  
**PLEASE JOIN US | FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**



**At the first Christmas, angels proclaimed good news of great joy for all people. We invite you to join us at Avenue United Methodist Church to celebrate that joy with others in the community.**

**Sunday, December 24th**

- 9:30 AM Children's Christmas Pageant
- 10:00 AM Refreshments and Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Festival of Lessons and Carols
- 3:00 PM Family Service with a Children's Message, Organ and Carols
- 5:00 PM Family Service with a Children's Message, Organ and Carols
- 7:00 PM Contemporary Service with Praise and Worship Team
- 9:00 PM Contemporary Service with Praise and Worship Team
- 11:00 PM Traditional Service with Choir, Organ and Carols

**All evening services will include candlelight and Holy Communion. Child Care provided for the 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 Services.**





## 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 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.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family of Marian Dickerson who passed away last Sunday, The family of Marion Jarrell who passed away on Saturday, The family of Albert Wright, Ray Wright’s brother, who passed away on Friday, The family of Carl “Rudy” List, Marti Brereton’s nephew, who passed away last week, The family of Patsy Sullivan, Sharon Starling’s mother, who passed away last week, The family of Wendell Combs who passed away this week, Joe and Grace Irish, Diane, Dave, Jack Simon, Holly, Brenda Beissel, Linda Brittingham, Lillie Brittingham, Leon Tschantre, Jean Stevenson, David Knowles, Julia, Neil Parker, Alan Parker, Janice Abbott, Collen Dunham, Marilyn Bowe, April McIntyre, Bill & Jill Gustin, Kirsten Pearce, Bonnie Shea, The people of Puerto Rico still without electricity and dealing food shortages, Arthur, Beth Judy, Bobby Walls, Dot Sophos, The family and friends of John Dougherty, Sr. on the anniversary of his death, The Hannah family, Craig, Beverly Auckland, Chuck & Sandy Culotta’s daughter-in-law, Babbie, Chuck & Sandy Culotta’s daughter-in-law, Kalle, Holly, Diane Gehlert’s daughter, Bill Gaskill, Ryan Hurka and All of our Code Purple guests and volunteers.

**Recently hospitalized:** Faye Schnell, David Knowles, Brenda Beissel and Jack Simon.

**Rejoice with:** Us, as we give thanks for the ultimate gift of Jesus and Bill McComb.

## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

**Lotte Dressler** who will celebrate her **95<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**Jean Hutchman** who will celebrate her **92<sup>nd</sup>** birthday on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**Jack & Janet McCall** who will celebrate their **55<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

## **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](mailto: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 - two families for Christmas Eve (10:30 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.).

To volunteer to light the Advent Wreath, please contact Pastor Wendy Owen at [wendyowen@avenueumc.com](mailto:wendyowen@avenueumc.com). 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**

**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 **December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** On **December 12<sup>th</sup>** 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 Holzmuehler Room. On **December 13<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>, "Faith to Discern," based on Acts 13:1-12; December 17<sup>th</sup>, "Faith to Persevere," based on Acts 14:8-11, 19-23; December 24<sup>th</sup>, "Faithful Seekers of the King," based on Matthew 2:1-12; and December 31<sup>st</sup>, "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.

**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 17<sup>th</sup>**. We shall continue our study of the "Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis by looking at letters 10 through 18.

**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.



**SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING:** Interested in helping out with our children's ministries? Already volunteering with our youth? Please plan to attend ONE of the following trainings for Safe Sanctuary: **Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or **Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Grier Room. Anyone is invited to attend (even if you aren't sure you want to volunteer). If you have questions or want to know more – please contact Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

## **OUTREACH**

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** We will not be collecting in December so we can focus on collecting for the 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 **50<sup>th</sup>** year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org).

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL NEW-OFFER:** Children who will turn 3 after August 31<sup>st</sup> 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!

**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" is decorated with need tag/ornaments in the Sanctuary. We will receiving items anytime **December 3<sup>rd</sup>—16<sup>th</sup>**. Items may be brought in early. On December 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>**. We will be sorting/bagging items received this day after the 11:00 service. On **December 18<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	62	66
9:30	173	159
Sunday School	79	60
11:00	81	77
FUSION	51	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>414</b>

# CALENDAR

## SUNDAY 12/10 ~ Pancake Breakfast

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  
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall & Wesley Room

## MONDAY 12/11

11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 4:00 p.m. Alzheimers Support Group, Grier Room  
 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Sanctuary  
 6:30 p.m. Tiger Den Meeting, Nursery  
 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 12/12

10:00 a.m. Sisters Bible Study, Grier Room  
 1:00 p.m. 4H, Westley Room  
 6:00 p.m. Brownie Troop, Nursery  
 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

## WEDNESDAY 12/13

10:00 a.m. Apportionment Review—DD, Holzmueller Room  
 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  
 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Wesley Room  
 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

## THURSDAY 12/14

8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group, Conference Room  
 9:00 a.m. DCOM, Heritage Room & Holzmueller Room  
 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room  
 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202  
 6:00 p.m. Scout Paint Night, Fellowship Hall

## FRIDAY 12/15

8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

## SATURDAY 12/16

7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

## SUNDAY 12/17

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  
 12:15 p.m. Exploring Faith Book Club, Grier Room  
 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room  
 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall & Wesley Room  
 6:30 p.m. DD Pilgrimage Meeting, Grier Room