



AVENUE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Midweek

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

From the desk of our Pastors . . .

I pray and trust that you all had a blessed and joyous Christmas. I thoroughly enjoyed the holidays however I admit that by the time we got done with the sixth service on Christmas Eve, I was dragging. I have recovered, and I am now focused on setting those New Year's resolutions and planning our wedding. One of the things that I promise myself every year is that I will stay in better touch with my friends and family that I don't get to see very often. It became apparent I was doing a lousy job when I got a Christmas card from a man I would consider a very good friend who lives outside of Richmond, VA. Rob actually lives in the town next to where my dad grew up. I had promised him years ago that when my grandmother died, and we brought her home to Virginia that I would call him and we would get together for lunch. The last time I saw him was about five years ago and we were thinking it was only a matter of time before my grandmother passed. After all, back then she was 97.

His note to me started with all the basic information about what he and his daughter were up to and then he asked me why I had never called when my grandmother was buried. The answer was easy. She is still alive and doing well at age 102 but he didn't know that. He had become quite hurt when he thought I had blown him off. I immediately picked up the phone and after chatting about 30 minutes he was no longer feeling offended by what he had considered to be a blow-off. He had a good laugh at her hardness and solid

hold on life. I could certainly see his point however. As for me...well I certainly didn't think twice about whether I had confused him by not keeping him up-to-date. It never crossed my mind that he may have been feeling slighted.

Isn't it amazing how a misunderstanding can result in hurt feelings and feeling offended? Ecclesiastes 7:21-22 reminds us not to be oversensitive as it says, "Do not take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. For many times, also, your own heart has known that even you have cursed others."

Those who know and love God understand that it is never good to allow a wedge to be driven between you and your brothers and sisters in Christ. But as Christ forgave you, it's important that you forgive also. So how about if we make our first resolution of the year to forgive others as we have been forgiven by the Lord?

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, sweeping initial 'H'.



From the desk of our Bishop.....

2018: The Year of the Migrant

In the midst of the joyous celebration of Christmas there is a backdrop of suffering around the globe in the form of migrants.

Studies indicate that there are as many as 65 million migrants, immigrants, refugees and displaced people in the world today. More than half of them are under the age of 18.

There are many reasons why people leave their homes, including war, persecution, weather disasters, genocide, and terrorism. For the most part, migrants experience extreme poverty, disease, dangerous travel, unbelievable conditions of hunger, cold, lack of medical attention and sanitation. Sadly, many times they also face hurtful bias and discrimination from the countries that both receive them and reject them.

As the people of God we cannot turn a blind eye to this suffering. I would like for us all to observe 2018 as the “Year of the Migrant” in the Philadelphia Episcopal Area. I ask that every church do at least one thing to help mitigate this global crisis.

Your donations can be sent to [Peninsula-Delaware Conference, with Migrant Ministries in the memo box](#). ([Learn more](#) on UMCOR’s website and from a May 2017 UM News Service article, “[Church response to migration gets boost](#).”) Churches can engage in studies about global migration issues. We can speak to our lawmakers about the situation, and even help to settle and welcome migrants and refugees in our areas and communities. Several of our churches are already doing this kind of work, and they could use more help from more donors and volunteers.

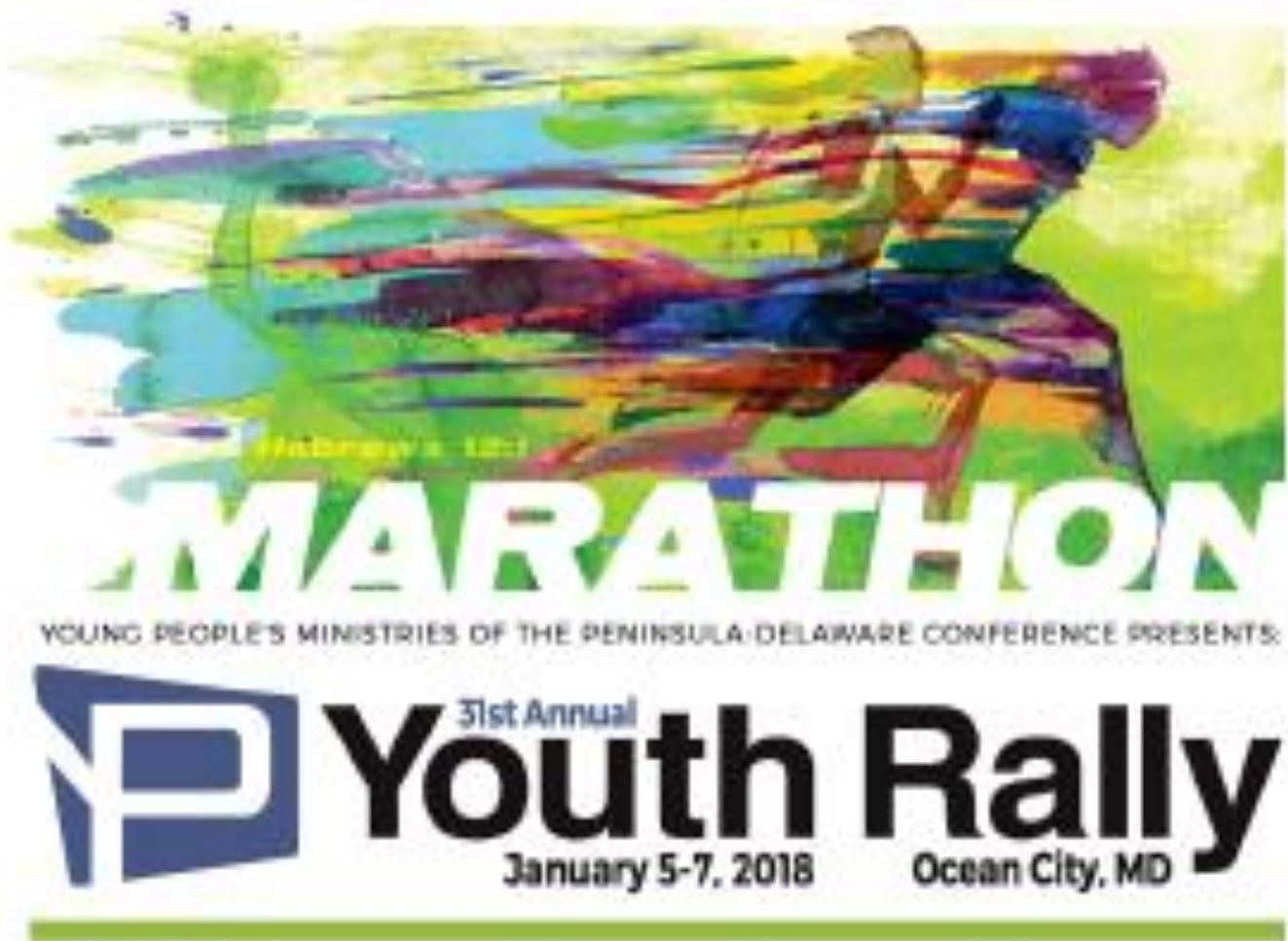
Remember that when we help migrants and sojourners in need we are helping Jesus, the Savior whose birth we welcome at Christmas time. Even he and his holy family became refugees in Egypt to escape the terror of murderous King Herod.

Jesus said “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me....truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:35, 40)

I pray that you and your church will have a heart for this critical ministry. What will your church do in 2018 to reach out, welcome others in, and help with the global crisis among desperate migrants? Please let us know.



Peggy A. Johnson



Poinsettia's in Sanctuary

If you ordered would like to take a poinsettia home, please do so by **January 7th**. (Take the plant, but leave plastic dish)



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 CURRENT WEEK: Jerry Jackson, the family and friends of Roger Alexander, Christopher, everyone affected by violent crime, all those impacted by the recent house fires throughout the area, Kitty Chen, Chester, Silvia Tuttle, the family and friends of Jean Stevenson, Steve, the Knight family, Josiah, Brother, Junior, Sister Ruth, Kalle Culotta's father, Liz, Craig, Kay Green, Leah Faber, Susan, Zachary Lloyd, Bobby Walls, Alyssa, Ariel, Cathy Strouse, Janet Talbot and family.

Rejoice with: Chuck and Sandy Culotta

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:

Mary Jo Lear who will celebrate her **96th** birthday on **January 3rd**.

Ed Bailey who will celebrate his **94th** birthday in January.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Bob and Bonnie Walls who will celebrate their **56th** anniversary on **January 6th**.

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 WHITE PARAMENTS

Why White?

White is the symbol of purity and holiness. It is used for the **Christmas** season as a sign of respect and reverence for the birth of our Lord.

What do the symbols represent?

On the altar cloth, the three petaled arms of the fleur-de-lis (lily) crosses symbolize the Trinity. The smaller ones flank the large cross with the I H S initials, mean “In His Sign”.

The crown above the crosses on the lectern and pulpit represents the Son of God, the Prince of Peace.

(Adapted from The meaning of Colors and Symbols by Dennis Bratcher)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet for a Board Meeting on Monday, **January 8th at 4:00 p.m.** in Room 207 upstairs over Grier Room.

A HEALTHIER YOU CLASS: In this class you will learn weight loss, eating to avoid cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, detoxing and spiritual fasting. Class will be taught by Bonnie Glenn on **January 17th at 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.**

LAITY SUNDAY is on **January 21st.**

BAPTISM: If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Tom at (302) 422-8111 or tapasmore@avenueumc.com.

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES

ALZHEIMER’S SUPPORT GROUP: The Alzheimer’s Caregiver’s Support Group will meet the **2nd Monday of each month.** The next meeting will be **January 8th at 4:00 p.m.** in the Grier Room.

TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS’ BIBLE STUDY: On **January 9th** we will be starting *Is This The End* 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 in the Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.

WIDOW/WIDOWERS/LOST AND FOUND GROUP our next meeting on **January 10th at 2:00 p.m.** in **Pastor Wendy’s Office.** Come join us. Contact Pastor Wendy at (302) 422-8111.

WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. On **January 3rd** we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952.

EXPLORING FAITH BOOK will meet on January 28, 2018 at 12:15 p.m. in the Grier Room. We shall continue our study of the "Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis by looking at letters 15 through 21.

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 17th** from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or **Thursday, January 25th** 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

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.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: We are in need **cereal** (not pre-sweetened please). Thank You!

CODE PURPLE

Happy New Year to each of you!!!

It has been quite a year this past year for many of our volunteers and guests. Some good and some tough times. But with the Dear Lord's help and grace, we did survive!!!

Everyone worked very hard to be there for our guests at the shelter. This enabled us to keep our doors open, serve nutritious and delicious food and be there when our guest's needed help that we couldn't provide at the shelter.

When a guest showed signs of deep depression, Dan was there to help him navigate the health care system.

Jerry has been readmitted to the hospital several times, Tom and other volunteers got him immediate care by calling the ambulance and supporting him until they arrived.

Larry, helped diffuse a very tough situation between two guests. John Elliott was able to reinforce boundaries to the guests, that enabled others to enjoy restful sleep.

We don't know who all the volunteers were that helped them, but we do know it was many of our faithful volunteers, each night, that gave the support that was needed. To each of you – no matter what role you play, we say THANK YOU!!!

We can't be there for our clients without your caring.

But there were fun things that happened also. Lang, Paige and Bill playing an engrossing game of spoons! They brought smiles to everyone there!

Thank You ahead of time, for your continued faithfulness to those, whom society believes have no value.

Thank you for sharing what you have and who you are with those who have so little. Every morning, there is a chorus of "thank you" from the men as they leave. They do appreciate what you do and so do I and everyone on the leadership team!!!

COMMUNITY

MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY: We are in need cereal (not pre-sweetened please). Thank You!

LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2016	2017
8:00	55	60
9:30	88	196
Sunday School	0	0
11:00	58	75
<u>FUSION</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	201	331

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1/7 ~ 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
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272 Meeting, Heritage Room

MONDAY 1/8

- 9:00 a.m. Hospital Aux. Meeting, Carpenter Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 4:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support Group, Grier Room
- 4:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting, Room 207
- 6:30 p.m. Handbell Choir, Music Room
- 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

TUESDAY 1/9

- 9:30 a.m. Archives Meeting, Archives Room
- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 1:00 p.m. 4H, Wesley Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 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. Finance Comm. Meeting, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Preschool Board Meeting, Holzmueller Room

WEDNESDAY 1/10

- 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, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Arrow of Light Den, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

THURSDAY 1/11

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:30 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion, Room 202
- 6:00 p.m. Civil Air Patrol, Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Committee Meeting, Grier Room

FRIDAY 1/12

- 8:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SATURDAY 1/13

- 9:00 a.m. Funeral—Veronica Watson, Sanctuary
- 9:00 a.m. Merit Badge College, Wesley Room and Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

SUNDAY 1/14

- 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
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room