



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, January 17, 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

I am probably one of the few adults who was very happy to see it snow as much as it did on January 4. It's not because I was in some tropical location, glad to be out of the cold and wind of the mid-Atlantic. As a matter of fact, I did a round trip to Dover that day during some of the heaviest snow and I was happy to be doing it.

That was the day that Chris got his wisdom teeth out. The snow required that he come down to Milford the night before so that he could be in the oral surgeon's office the next morning at 9:00 am. It also meant that he needed to stay a few days at my house as he was pretty loopy from the anesthesia and it was best that he be completely recovered before trying to drive back in the snow.

This also led to my mom role of "officially" keeping an eye on his swelling, making sure he ate appropriate foods, and double checking that he was taking his medications on schedule. (Off the record, it also meant that I knew he was not out driving around in the snow, walking into town in just a sweatshirt and sneakers in the freezing cold, and existing on pizza and nachos for the duration of the storm.)

It's funny how things turn around because when he was younger and

home on snow days, I would be ready to send him back to school if he was out for more than two days at a time. Now that he is 21 and living with his friends, I would have loved to be snowed in with him for even longer periods of time before shipping him back to school. I got to be mom just like “in the old days” and he got all his laundry done. Win-win.

As much as I enjoyed that short reminder of how things used to be, I also recognize that there is no going back for any of us. We can't stay focused on the past or we fail to see the blessings of the present or be ready for what God has planned for us in the future.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us that, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” While I miss reading Chris bedtime stories, I sincerely enjoyed our conversation about world events. We didn't go sledding together like we did when he was younger, but we did have some great games of chess that challenged us both. And there was no watching Barney in the middle of the afternoon which was something we were both grateful for. (Some things really are best left behind.) I will never have my little boy again, but that season is past. Instead, I am enjoying this current period of time with the young man he has become.

Everyone can look to his or her life and see examples of seasons that have come and gone. But we all have blessings in the chapter of life we are living now. Even better is the promise of God that the Lord has more wonderful things planned for our futures. To everything there truly is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.

To God be the glory forever and ever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## **United Methodist Bishops Condemn President Trump’s “Offensive” Remarks Against Immigrants**

We are appalled by the offensive, disgusting words attributed to President Donald Trump who is said to have referred to immigrants from African countries and Haiti, and the countries themselves, in an insulting and derogative manner. According to various media accounts, President Trump made the remarks during a White House discussion with lawmakers on immigration. As reported, President Trump’s words are not only offensive and harmful, they are racist.

We call upon all Christians, especially United Methodists, to condemn this characterization and further call for President Trump to apologize.

As United Methodists, we cherish our brothers and sisters from all parts of the world and we believe that God loves all creation regardless of where they live or where they come from. As leaders of our global United Methodist Church, we are sickened by such uncouth language from the leader of a nation that was founded by immigrants and serves as a beacon to the world’s “huddled masses longing to be free.”

Thousands of our clergy, laity and other highly skilled, productive citizens are from places President Trump has defamed with his comments. The fact that he also insists the United States should consider more immigrants from Europe and Asia demonstrates the racist character of his comments. This is a direct contradiction of God’s love for all people. Further, these comments on the eve of celebrating Martin Luther King Day belies Dr. Kings’ witness and the United States on-going battle against racism.

We just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, whose parents during his infancy, had to flee to Africa to escape from the wrath of King Herod. Millions of immigrants across the globe are running away from such despicable and life-threatening events. Hence, we have the Christian duty to be supportive of them as they flee political, cultural and social dangers in their native homes.

We will not stand by and allow our brothers and sisters to be maligned in such a crude manner. We call on all United Methodists, all people of faith, and the political leadership of the United States to speak up and speak against such demeaning and racist comments.

Christ reminds us that it is by love that they will know that we are Christians. Let’s demonstrate that love for all of God’s people by

Bishop Bruce R. Ough  
President – Council of Bishops

**“A Way Forward” Forum Event**  
**Saturday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 AM-3:00 PM Salisbury University**

The Peninsula-Delaware Conference, with the support of the Bishop and Cabinet, will host a forum for conversation. Dr. Brian Polkinghorn, the Director of the Bosserman Center for Conflict Resolution, will be moderating the event, at no cost to the Conference.

Join us for a forum on the future of The United Methodist Church. You may know that the Bishops created a Commission on a Way Forward at the last General Conference, in 2016, to present options for United Methodists to live together faithfully with differing beliefs around the issues of human sexuality. The two primary aspects of these concerns involve language in the Book of Discipline around conducting same-gender weddings and ordaining “self-avowed practicing homosexual” people. The Commission has asked for our feedback.

We will meet at Salisbury University, [1101 Camden Ave. Salisbury, Maryland](#) in the Worcester Room above The Commons Dining Hall. Students are on campus during this time, so we invite you to park at Asbury UMC, on Dogwood Drive. Lunch will be on your own, and we recommend eating at The Commons, a food court at Salisbury University, one floor below our meeting room.

This is a FREE event, but registration is REQUIRED

## Upcoming Meetings

- **Safe Sanctuary Training** on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Grier Room
- **SPRC Meeting** on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room
- **Safe Sanctuary Training** on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

## 2018 Church Council Meetings

- February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



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

### Surrounders

*By Bishop Peggy Johnson*

Last weekend the annual Youth Rally in Ocean City, Maryland was challenged by a blizzard the day before the event began. Leadership had a difficult decision to make about cancelling or going ahead with the effort. All cancellation decisions are difficult but at the end of the day, after much prayer, it was felt best that the event continue to go forward. The theme was “Marathon” and the key scripture verses were Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings to us closely and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Throughout the event the speakers and Christian rock groups emphasized the importance of endurance in the face of the challenges that are a part of a life of faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is indeed the model, and our “way, truth and life” for this journey. I was pondering the word “surrounded” as I witnessed the rally in action. Chapter 11 of Hebrews gives an extensive history lesson about the saints of God who lived before, who now are in heaven cheering on the contemporary church. Indeed the “crowd in the cloud” is there but so are the “surrounding” support systems for these teens who attended this 3-day “marathon” of speakers, music, break-out groups, and fun.

I give God thanks for the many pastors, youth leaders, and parents who sacrificially gave of their time, their sleep, their means and their hearts to spur on a new generation of Christians for the church that they will lead into the future. I heard one pastor say “there are two new souls for the kingdom, who ac-

cepted the Lord last night.” I heard another leader speak about a young woman who has felt a call to ministry. I saw groups of young people gathered in a corner, surrounded by their leaders joining in prayer. I heard Taylor Bullis, a 9<sup>th</sup> grader from Bethel UMC in Dagsboro, DE give a spirit-filled sermon of encouragement to her peers.


We need to be “surrounders” of the next generation. An African proverb that says “It takes a village to raise a child” rings true. According to an NPR researcher cited in Wikipedia there are a number of proverbs that point to this same sentiment:

Lunyoro (Bunyoro) “a child does not group up in a single home.”

Kihaja (Bahaya) “A child belongs not to one parent or home.”

Kijita (Wajita) “regardless of a child’s biological parents, its upbringing belongs to the community.”

Whatever version you want to follow the truth is still the same. In the household of faith all of us are responsible for the spiritual nurture of our young people. When the youth come home from this Youth Rally, how will you and your church endeavor to surround them with ways to grow in their faith, grow in leadership opportunities and grow in love and concern for their neighbor and the world? Youth Rally is not a “once and done” kind of thing. It is a “spark plug” that requires the follow-through engine of the church. Youth Rally is an ongoing process that we, as the church, need to embrace and take seriously as our Christian calling. Be a “surrounder” of the young people in your midst. If you don’t have young people in your church, you can always support the efforts of churches with young peoples’ ministries. The work is ours to do, as the contemporary “cloud of witnesses” for this generation.



*Peggy A. Johnson*

## 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:** Jerry Jackson, Travis Moorman and family, the family and friends of Chris Lundy, Everett and Lee Tyrrell, the family and friends of Maddison Remmick, Sister Ruth, Charlie Fleetwood, Raechel Pfier, Luise Combs, and Christopher.

**Rejoice with:** Sylvia Tuttle

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** Donna and Sonny Meck and family, Charlie Fleetwood, Luise Combs, Raechel Pfier, Christopher, all the homeless in the world, Kirsten Pierce, Lorraine Donovan, Lisa Shaw, Randy Gooner, Kevin Mitchell, Arden, all affected by the California mudslide, the Remick family, friends and family of Junior Tyrrell, family and friends of Chris Lundy, Travis and Sarah Hughes, Judy Brown, Mason Lookhart, Nan Ruhl, Craig, David Nash, Bruce Morris, Susan Delledonne, John Fernay, Patrick Helmick, Leah Faber, Wayne, Zachary Lloyd, Nicole Tuttle and family, Code Purple guests and volunteers, Karen Williams, World Peace, Bill and Jill Gustin, Ben, Donald, Bill, and Julie.

**Recently hospitalized:** Howard Sipple, Jo Wood, and Jackson Wilkins.

**Rejoice with:** Richard and Sharon Brown, Janice Abbott, Jerry Jackson, Patrick Helmick, and the seven people who joined the church and the three who were baptized on Sunday.

### 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.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Richard and Sharon Brown** who will celebrate their **54<sup>th</sup>** wedding anniversary on **January 18<sup>th</sup>**.

### UPCOMING

#### A WORD ABOUT GREEN PARAMENTS

##### Why Green?

Green symbolizes the promise of new life. It is used during Ordinary Time, a period where there is no special season. This includes the period between Epiphany and Lent, as well as the season between Pentecost and Advent. We will be using green paraments starting this Sunday until Ash Wednesday.

##### What do the symbols represent?

The three-petaled arms of the fleur-de-lis crosses are symbols of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The crown motif represents Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who is our heavenly leader or king.

**LAITY SUNDAY** is on **January 21<sup>st</sup>**.

**HANDS ON MISSION DAY** sponsored by United Methodist Women on **Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00 am until? in Fellowship Hall. We will have tables set up for a variety of activities that you can participate in. Everyone with a heart for mission projects is invited. One table will be set up for making **To Go Bags** for the Code Purple guests as they go outdoors for the day. Another table will be **card makers** helping you learn or make cards to be sent to shut ins, friends, neighbors and anyone that needs a card of love. Another table will be making **UMCOR hygiene or school kits** for children with needs. And some folks may want to be putting together **Crisis kits** for the Crisis Center. Please bring **yourself** – most important and then perhaps some items to help others such as: bottled water, granola bars or breakfast bars, packs of tuna, canned meats, individually wrapped crackers, pudding, individual containers of fruit, tooth brush and holder, tooth paste medium size, bath size soap, washcloth, hand towel, brush, combs, deodorant, metal nail file or nail clippers, pads of paper – spiral or top-bound pads, 24 count crayons, blunt scissors, 2 inch eraser, unsharpened pencils, pencil sharpener, 30-centimeter ruler. Mark your calendar and come out for some wonderful fellowship and time set aside to help others.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)** are proud to serve their third Pancake Breakfast of the year on **February 11, 2018**. 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.

Avenue will be hosting the DOVER DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING classes on **February 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.** If you would like to learn more about the following committees or ministries please contact the church office.

Staff /Parish Relations  
Lay Leaders  
Trustees  
Finance  
Nominations and Leadership Development  
Evangelism  
MissionInsite  
Worship  
Prison Outreach  
Race Reconciliation  
Connectional Giving for Mission  
Children's Ministry  
Prayer and Healing Ministries

## **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 **February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will continue our study *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 on **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** .

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmueller Room. On **January 17<sup>th</sup>** 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.

**SUNSHINE BIBLE STUDY** will be studying "A Living Faith in God" during January. January 21<sup>st</sup>, "A Prayer for an Obedient Faith" based on Daniel 9:1-9; and January 28<sup>th</sup>, "A Strong Faith" based on Daniel 10:10-19. The Sunshine Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings at **9:30 a.m.** in the Grier Room. All are welcome.

**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**

**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.

## **CODE PURPLE**

Greetings Friends! Our winter has certainly arrived and with the frigid temperatures, our Code Purple Sussex County shelter here at Avenue UMC has served 36 men so far this season. We have averaged 12-14 recently and we have been blessed with the support of community members and our church family. You may notice, we have placed a chalkboard in the lobby to note specific needs, as we discover shortages in supplies throughout the week. We are so grateful for the rapid response to last week's requests of jeans and sweat pants.

One way community groups and clubs can work to support Code Purple Sussex County, is to prepare GO BAGS for the shelter. Our guests can take a GO BAG in the morning as they leave for the day. This time of year, GO BAGS are best stocked in a large zip lock bag and include a water bottle, a protein, such as a pop top hearty soup or package of tuna, crackers, fruit cup, or applesauce, napkins, and a spoon/fork. A note of encouragement is always a blessing, as well.

We also invite you to join us in fellowship any evening. 7:00 -8:30 is a great time to come and play games, share testimony, listen with an open heart to another man's story, and be a loving presence during this difficult time in our guests' journeys.

## **COMMUNITY**

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

## CALENDAR

### SUNDAY 1/21 ~ Laity Sunday

- 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
- 3:00 p.m. Concert Series: Music School Recital, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Explaining Christianity with Dan Nelson, Fellowship Hall
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room

### MONDAY 1/22

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 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 1/23

- 10:00 a.m. Sister's Bible Study, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 6:30 p.m. Mispillion Children's Chorus, Music Room
- 6:30 p.m. Dover District—BOLM, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club, Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY 1/24

- 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, Music Room
- 6:00 p.m. Civil Air Patrol, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class, Holzmueller Room

### THURSDAY 1/25

- 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. Safe Sanctuary Training, Grier Room

### FRIDAY 1/26

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

### SATURDAY 1/27

- 10:00 a.m. UMW: Mission Work Day, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### SUNDAY 1/28

- 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
- 3:00 p.m. Explaining Christianity with Dan Nelson, Fellowship Hall
- 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Grier Room
- 6:00 p.m. FUSION, Fellowship Hall and Wesley Room

### LAST WEEK AT AVENUE

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	53	49
9:30	162	167
Sunday School	70	60
11:00	73	61
FUSION	41	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>379</b>